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MIKE DINATISTA/NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

Gerardo Hernández, a member of the Cuban Five, was in Fort Erie for a visit with Consul General of Cuba, Javier Domokos, and members of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association of Niagara. Hernández leaves Fort Erie Town Hall after meeting mayor Wayne Redekop. Having spent 15 years in prison, Hernández never thought he would be able to have a family but he was reunited with his wife and together they are raising their 15-month-old daughter in Cuba. See page 2 for the story.

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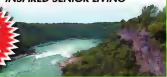
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Member of Cuban Five stops in Niagara to deliver thanks

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Gerardo Hernández finally has the family he's always wanted.

The 51-year-old Cuban has been reunited with his wife, Adriana Pérez, and together they have a beautiful infant daughter, 15-month old Gema.

"I'm dreaming now. I'm living a dream," Hernández said Monday afternoon while visiting Fort Erie Town Hall, where he greeted Mayor Wayne Redekop and members of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association of Niagara.

Holding his cell phone with a picture of his daughter proudly displayed across the screen, Hernández said having a family wasn't always a possibility for him.

"I spent a total of 15 years, three months and four days in prison. My story is a sad story. My daughter was conceived while I was still in prison. She was born because I was allowed to make a sperm donation and she was conceived artificially," Hernández said.

"We couldn't know for sure whether I could be out (of prison) some day," he added.

Hernández, an intelligence officer, said he was part of the group of five Cuban men who were arrested on Sept. 12, 1998 in Miami and unjustly imprisoned in the U.S.

Hernández said the U.S. government falsely accused him and his comrades, Ramón Labañino,

Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, of committing espionage conspiracy against the U.S. and other related charges.

He said the Cuban Five began a mission in Miami to monitor terrorist organizations' plots and prevent attacks on Cuba.

"We were imprisoned but we were not criminals. We were against terrorism."

Hernández was convicted and spent 15 years in prison, serving a double life sentence without possibility of parole for conspiracy to commit espionage and murder.

Being away from his family while he was incarcerated was "the hardest part" for Hernández.

To stay positive during his time spent in prison, Hernández said he drew inspiration from his friends and "from the spirit of the Cuban people."

Two members of the Cuban Five were released from prison after completing their sentences.

Despite appealing the convictions, the three remaining members of the Cuban Five, including Hernández, weren't released until U.S. president Barack Obama granted them clemency on Dec. 17, 2014.

The day Hernández learned he was to return home, the knowledge that he was freed was "overwhelming."

"There was a lot of happiness."

Hernández is grateful for a moment that swept across



MIKE DIBARTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Gerardo Hernández, a member of the Cuban Five was visiting Fort Erie Monday with Consul General of Cuba, Javier Domokos, and members of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association of Niagara. They stopped at Town Hall for a meeting with Mayor Wayne Redekop.

the world, with thousands of people calling for freedom for the men.

"I'm here to thank many friends that helped us through many years when I was in prison in the U.S.," Hernández said about his visit Canada.

"We received a lot of support from friends in Canada and we're here today to thank them."

He came to Niagara for the sights in the area after

giving a lecture about his life and his journey to freedom during a celebration in Toronto.

"This is my first time to Canada and I like it. I feel like I have been to Canada before because I have so many good friends here that supported me through the years," Hernández said.

"Now, most of them I'm seeing for the first time but I've known their names for a long while. They have been

friends of Cuba for many, many years."

"The release of the Cuban Five is part of a solidarity movement that took place around the world and Canada was part of that," said Javier Domokos, the Consul General of Cuba.

"The Niagara region has been very active, not only with the Cuban Five, but with Canadian-Cuban relations," he said about Hernández's decision to visit Fort Erie

Town Hall.

Hernández said he will continue to travel to speak about his experiences in an effort to raise awareness about the Cuban Five.

"I had two life sentences and I spent 15 years in prison. The fact that I am here today is a miracle. A miracle that was possible because of the efforts of friends like people here," he said.

safefergusson@postmedia.com

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Fort Erie's Latin American community provides helping hand to refugees

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

As bombs fell on her Guatemalan town, Ericka Alfaro escaped into the darkness of night with nothing but her sister and a few belongings in tow.

Alfaro was born in Guatemala, and shortly into her life there a civil war erupted that threatened the lives of Alfaro's family.

"My father came here as a refugee himself, and then I came in about six months after. Fort Erie's been my home ever since," Alfaro said.

Alfaro stayed behind with her mother and sister while her mother continued to work.

The sister was lucky to have their passports but their mother did not.

"We had to flee our home. Actually, our mother couldn't even come with us," said Alfaro.

"We had problems. At the time there was civil war going on. There was bombings everywhere. It ruined pretty much the front of my house when my sister and I were sleeping."

Alfaro says her sister woke her up, they grabbed money and their passports,

and they fled.

"We came to Canada with a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt each," said Alfaro.

After that incredible day, Alfaro's life changed drastically.

After a long flight into the U.S., Alfaro and her sister found themselves sheltered at a refugee house in Buffalo, N.Y.

According to Alfaro, she feels lucky they even made it that far.

"It was horrible, you know, leaving your home. I didn't even know where my mom was because she was working when it happened. I had no idea where we were going, and to be honest we were lucky to have our passports because most people in Guatemala didn't," she said.

At the refugee house, Alfaro and her sister struggled to sleep. New surroundings, combined with an inability to speak English, left Alfaro and her sister feeling out of place and unable to fit in.

Looking back, Alfaro says the house was filled with people from all over the world speaking all kinds of dialects. Many of their situations matched Alfaro's more closely than she could have considered at the time.

It wasn't until Alfaro came across the Niagara River and stepped onto Canadian soil that she began to feel a sense of ownership for her new life.

"My dad loved Fort Erie. He was one of the first coming in here as a refugee so he loved Fort Erie. It was quiet and it was nice," said Alfaro.

"Everybody was nice, and at that time it was hard to be friendly to people anybody didn't know."

Alfaro's experiences led her to have a deeper understanding of exactly what Syrian refugees face when they move to towns like Fort Erie.

"They have nothing and they're stuck having to relocate like this," said Alfaro.

"They've got to start from first of all, a home, and then furniture and clothing and everything else."

Alfaro and her church group sold pupusas with beans and out of St. Michael's Church on Saturday and Sunday to raise more funds.

Pupusas are a Salvadorian dish that includes tortillas that are stuffed with beans, cheese and meat. The tortillas are topped with an onion slaw and a zesty tomato sauce.

The banana bread is special because it's made with

agave syrup rather than traditional white cane sugar.

"Yes, it's what they use to make tequila," Alfaro says with much chagrin.

For Alfaro, the food is as much about helping refugees as it is broadening the food spectrum here in town.

"We're trying to introduce some of our foods other than tacos. Tacos are delicious, yes, but that's not it," said Alfaro.

She hopes that the funds, as well as the welcoming nature of the town will make the refugees feel just a little bit more at home than they would otherwise.

The town wasn't always the most welcoming to refugees, Alfaro believes, but not in a bad way.

"They were always friendly, but before, and it's understandable, they didn't know us or where we came from. We were just kind of invading their quiet town."

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AUSTIN GOODER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Alma Cordova, a volunteer with the Spanish congregation at St. Michael's Church, handed out Salvadorian pupusas during the church's fundraiser for Syrian refugees held last weekend at St. Michael's Church.

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Miscommunication about LED lights leads to illuminating discussion

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The need for improved communication between the Town of Fort Erie and residents and business owners was illuminated during last week's council discussion about LED lights.

Jesse Boles, Ridgeway Business Improvement Association events and promotions coordinator, spoke on behalf of the RBIA about its "concerns, displeasure and heartbreak regarding how the LED (light-emitting diode) retrofit has been handled in downtown Ridgeway," at last Tuesday's council meeting.

"It was horrifying to see... our beautiful heritage-style fixtures being torn down and new LED fixtures that have a very industrial and marine utility look to them going up in their place."

When the energy-efficient and cost-saving LED street-lighting project was announced in January, Boles says he sent an e-mail and made three phone calls to Town staff, none of which were returned.

He said he felt the Town should have given RBIA members an opportunity to have input in the design of the new fixtures or retrofit the existing ones to accommodate the LED lights.

Boles told councillors the fixtures were replaced with new ones that were "half the size, scale and style" of the previous ones.

Although some business owners have said they like the fact that the LED lights

are environmentally friendly, Boles said the old fixtures added a historical element to the area.

"Our lighting is an integral part of our downtown heritage look," Boles said. "Our lighting is also new as of five years ago when the revamp and design of downtown was completed - a project that received heavy consultation and input from the BIA and the community into the design, look and feel of downtown."

Boles said Town staff should have explored options for retrofitting the streetlight fixtures instead of removing them.

"The replacement and disposal of our fixtures is simply not financially responsible as a municipality," he added.

Ward 5 Coun. Don Luherts asked Town staff why there was no communication with the BIA about the streetlight replacement in Ridgeway. He also wanted to know what happened to the old fixtures after they were replaced.

Kelly Walsh, the Town's director of infrastructure services, said the contractor hired to replace the streetlights submitted a proposal last August highlighting the types of decorative light fixtures available.

According to information from the supplier, Walsh said the existing fixtures could have been retrofitted at a cost of \$1,500 each.

"Yes, it can be done, but it's expensive," he said.

A retrofit of the old fixtures to accommodate the new hubs is no longer possible

because "they have already been destroyed by the contractor."

Because there wasn't an exact match of what was there before and the available choices, Walsh said he e-mailed Ward 4 Coun. Marina Butler and presented her with the possible options for new fixtures in Ridgeway.

"We had a meeting and we went back and forth until it was decided (input from the BIA) wasn't necessary because we thought this was as close as we could get to the existing lights and we couldn't do any better," Walsh said.

"It wasn't (Butler's) decision, it was a staff decision. We dropped the ball because we should have had a discussion with the BIA."

The Town initiated a revitalization of Ridgeway's downtown area that was completed five years ago, Walsh said. There were 34 existing fixtures that were not replaced at that time, and 26 new ones were installed at a cost of \$2,000 each. All of those were replaced in March.

Walsh said it made sense to staff to "start everything fresh" by replacing all 60. Approximately 3,266 streetlights will be converted by the end of April. Council approved the \$2.3 million project as part of the 2015 budget.

Town staff met with members of the Ridgeway Business Improvement Association last Thursday to discuss options for the LED lights.

"We had a very cordial

meeting. We discussed the process of where we are right now with the existing light fixtures and issues with the old fixtures," Walsh said.

"We're looking at a couple of things we can do to the (fixture) heads that are up right now."

One option involves removing the lens to make the light fixture "more retro-looking." However, this option would cause the lights to lose their Dark Sky compliance, an effort to reduce light pollution by focusing light only where it's needed and pointing it downward.

The current fixtures meet those conditions, focusing light where it's needed rather than having it shine on building faces, and pointing it downward "rather than spraying it out and up," Walsh said.

"The old lights had a brass band around them. We are looking at the cost of getting similar brass bands for the new lights" to make them more visually appealing, he added.

Butler said there was a breakdown in communication between Town staff and members of the community regarding the installation of the new street fixtures.

"We recognize that and we're going to fix that," she said.

She felt the meeting went well, she added.

"I really feel that it went in the right direction in terms of opening lines of communication," she said.

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Gary O'Brien, Ridgeway Business Improvement Association chairman, and Jesse Boles, events and promotions coordinator, stand in front of the new LED light fixtures that were recently installed.

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Options to improve lighting fixtures will be considered by council

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 4

But she made it clear she doesn't want to mislead anybody into thinking "things are going to change 100 per cent," she said.

While that would be fiscally irresponsible, "the potential of making some change exists."

Butler canvassed 36 merchants in downtown Ridgeway to gather their thoughts on the streetlights.

"Most of the business owners, about 97 per cent of them, liked them and didn't have a problem with them. There were some that said although they liked these new fixtures because they were eco-smart, they did like the other lights better."

Gary O'Brien, RBIA chairman, said he was satisfied following last Thursday's discussion about the LED light fixtures in downtown Ridgeway.

"We had a constructive discussion with Town staff

and interested parties on how to rectify the situation and from this point forward will be working towards finding a solution that adheres to the 'Victorian' vision for Downtown Ridgeway and our award-winning streetscape," O'Brien said.

"As the RBIA now has a role in the consultation process, we will have the opportunity to examine a number of options which will then be submitted to the RBIA membership for review and members prior to making any decisions."

Mayor Wayne Redekop said the meeting was "a good opportunity to meet with business owners and residents."

"We talked about the history of the street and the lighting. It was pressed upon staff that this needs to be dealt with quickly and I fully expect to see that happen."

Redekop said a streetlight is "an important part of the ambience of the street" so the



The light fixtures in downtown Ridgeway, including the one shown in this photo, were recently removed and replaced with new LED lights.

BIA and neighbouring residents and business owners should have been consulted.

"This is just a bump in the

road," Redekop said.

"It's important now that we made the error, we don't want to compound it by



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

This picture shows one on the new light LED light fixtures that were installed recently in downtown Ridgeway.

making a further error?"

A report with options to improve the street lighting in downtown Ridgeway will be

presented to councillors at a future council meeting.

safragsun@postmedia.com

'...We really understand what it means to have nothing'

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 3

Alfaro believes that this year, the town is much more willing and prepared to take in refugees.

Her group takes it as a responsibility to help after how generous the town has been.

"To us, it's very important because we really understand what it means to have nothing," said Alfaro.

"We've come a long way, and a lot of people helped us, so we want to give a little back."

The Latin American community in Fort Erie is still relatively small, but Alfaro says it has grown considerably over the last few decades.

The community is now big enough that they have their own biweekly congregation at St. Michael's Church where the sermons and songs are in Spanish.

The community has been helpful in allowing the Latin American community to integrate, and Alfaro said both sides of the aisle are to thank for that.

"This is harmony. That is, well, we have to understand that the moment we

leave our country, we have to blend. We need to create a fusion of cultures," she said.

"It's very important to be helpful with everybody and help anybody."

The easiest way to find success in fundraising efforts such as this one is community fellowship and cooperation.

"Everybody has their best interests at heart to help others,

and I believe that's what brought us all together," Alfaro says.

"We all come together through God. He keeps us alive and happy. He is everything to us."

Austin Gooder is a Niagara College Journalism-Print student. You can send him an e-mail to austingoodermedia@gmail.com.

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The
Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Discussion at council was about more than just light fixtures

The installation of light-emitting diode, or LED lights, was a hot topic of conversation during last week's council meeting.

Jesse Boles, the events and promotions coordinator for the Ridgeway Business Improvement Association, who spoke to council on behalf of the BIA, said some members of the business community were concerned because the downtown core's five-year-old elegant-looking light fixtures were taken down and replaced with new fixtures that use LED light bulbs, and just don't have the same curb appeal.

The discussion wasn't just about the fact that downtown Ridgeway was just renovated as recently as five years ago, or that the now-replaced light fixtures added a historical element to the area that seems to be missing from the newly installed light fixtures.

The discussion was about a lack of communication between Town staff and members of the community regarding a project that moved forward without consultation from the very people who live, work and play in downtown Ridgeway.

Boles said he had sent an e-mail and made three phone calls to Town staff, none of which were returned

when the project was in its initial stages.

Speaking with several representatives from the Town, a mistake was clearly made by not consulting the BIA in Ridgeway and other members of the community. Staff have said they are using this experience as a learning tool to make sure a similar breakdown in communication doesn't occur again.

When Boles contacted Town staff about the issue two weeks ago, he was given advice to address council and a meeting with Town staff was held last Thursday to look at options for dressing up the lights.

The old light fixtures have since been destroyed by the contractor so there is no possibility of reusing them.

It would be financially irresponsible for the Town to completely replace the lights, which is why they are looking for cost-effective solutions to improve the look and feel of the light fixtures.

Mayor Wayne Redekop has said he is committed to ensuring this issue is resolved quickly and all parties are satisfied.

Let's hope the Town continues to do the right thing by seeing this issue resolved and improving communication with its residents.

Do you remember?



We weren't really expecting calls about last week's April Fool's 'Do You Remember, but we hope you enjoyed the Fort Erie equivalent of the 'California cuties'. We did hear from Jim Priebe, the current Chairman of St. John's Lutheran Church in Snyder about the previous week's photo. Darlene Priebe, a lifetime member of St. John's found a copy of that same picture in their scrap book and told us that this photo was taken at a special service to mark the Centennial of St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday June 16, 1968. This was confirmed by Anita Gould who dropped off more information about the Church after having seen the write-up. A big thank you to all of you for adding to the history of St. John's Lutheran Church and this photo. This week's photo is dated 1981 and has two names on the back - Pat Baker and Ken Gibbons. We are pretty sure which one is Mr. Gibbons, but would love to know which one is Pat Baker or any of the other women in the photo. Please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us museum@forterie.ca



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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published. Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words. Submit your letters via e-mail to: sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca

Letter to the Editor

COMMUNITY SHOULD BE AWARE OF A THIEF

I would like to advise the community that a thief in Oakhill Forest has stolen from a hand-capped person's front porch. It was incredibly difficult to explain to my brother why his light-up Easter rabbit was

no longer on his front porch even though Easter had not yet passed.

My brother had this decoration for a long time and he just couldn't understand why someone would take it from his porch.

I know my brother would greatly appreciate the rabbit being returned as it means a lot to him. I know it would break his heart if he never gets his decoration back.

CAROL WHITE
FORT ERIE

Comment

Take a virtual walking tour of Québec City

Québec City is considered the most European of North American urban areas, with its intact wall, picturesque bridges and remarkable stone buildings.

Come to the Fort Erie Public Library, Centennial branch on Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. for a virtual walking tour. We will explore some breathtaking lookout points, little-known treasures, unique art installations, distinctive neighbourhoods, historic sites dating back to



the very origins of Canada, extensive bike routes and walking paths, and some of the best restaurants in the country.

We will be guided by Sandy Leppan, who sojourned in

the city for a season and fell under its spell. There are many interesting and inspiring travel books and DVDs in the library collection. Find them at www.flep.ca by typing travel in the search bar, or ask at any branch.

Are you a parent, grandparent or caregiver of a little one, aged 18 months to four years? If so, you already know that children are learning language and other important skills from the time they are infants. Developing these early lit-

eracy skills makes it easier for children to read once they begin school, and the library is a special part of this. Join us at Stories for 2s and 3s, on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at the Centennial branch, and on Wednesday mornings at Crystal Ridge for reading, writing, talking, singing and playing - the five fundamental skills that get children ready to read.

There is also a session on Monday, April 18 at the Stevensville branch. These ses-

sions are free, and registration is not required.

All of our films during the month of April are about people in crisis, who people who are meeting some tremendous challenges. Pawns Sacrifice is about a young man in a psychological test of wills, which took place on an international stage during the Cold War. United States chess prodigy Bobby Fischer, played by Tobey Maguire, was caught between superpowers when he challenged the Soviets. This film not

only tells that story, but also chronicles Fischer's terrifying struggles with genius and madness.

Watch Pawns Sacrifice at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, April 12 at 2 p.m., and on Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch. There is new audiovisual equipment at both locations, to enhance your movie-going experience.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

It's time to notice the great things happening in our town

I'd be lying if I said our town hasn't been through the ringer for several years running.

We've lost our hospital. We've lost our slots. We've lost jobs and money.

Someone in each and every one of our lives has succumbed to a disease of mind or body.

At Rich's, we lost a life and suffered a near-disaster.

A beloved politician and community service member passed away only a few short months after he won a landslide victory during our last town election.

There's been cheese-smuggling cops, door-to-door charlatans and vociferous online bullying.

No one can be blamed for being a little bit downtrodden in the wake of it all.



Fort Erie's taken a lot of punches, but we're still here. Each punch hurt like a ton of bricks.

But there's a bright spot on our horizon, Fort Erie.

In fact, there are several. Undeniably, the Canadian Motor Speedway is brightest. The project as it presently stands includes an oval course, a road course, seating for over 60,000 screaming fans and a research and development centre to be used by a major

Canadian university.

Yes, the project has been slow to develop, but developers have showed time and again that they're dedicated to a destination for world travelers, right here in Fort Erie.

What we often forget is that developers don't just get to pour a foundation while plucking away at their leisure. In reality, they have to meet ministry standards and ensure environmental suitability is possible.

Only a few kilometres away, building on Greater Fort Erie Secondary School is well underway and looks to be during summer 2017. Additionally, found on site is the Fort Erie Centre for the Arts. The centre is a liberal passion project for the community that is being made possible by Fred Louws and

his Embrace Greatness fundraising team.

Further, the town itself committed \$500,000 towards a tentative \$3 million project total, proving that Fort Erie is willing to make a commitment to cherishing arts and culture as a significant part of community building.

Out in Ridgeway, construction on John Brant Elementary School is also well underway. The new school will take its name from a Mohawk leader and Upper Canada's first ever indigenous parliamentarian and should act to tie together two distinct but similar communities.

Brant's largest commitment to modern-day Canada is his push for public school construction. Back out in Fort Erie's

north end, the green truss bridge is several months into a two-year replacement project that will drastically extend the bridge's shelf life.

Unity on town council led to a strong Bay Beach proposal that would strengthen the area's position as a staple of Niagara Region tourism and as a catalyst for the area, according to Mayor Wayne Redekop.

Contractors are also following through with Fort Erie's decision to switch to LED light fixtures on town-owned roads, and the only complaint from residents so far is that some of the fixtures just aren't pretty enough to look at. In all, the project will look even more successful when the town is saving drastically on energy costs.

I could go on and on. I could suggest that Mindy Leveille at Niagara Area Children's Assistance Program, or Amy Roebuck at the library or Stephen Passero and the Kinsmen Pool.

But I shouldn't need to elucidate on every single topic to create the sense that there is much hope for this town.

That sense has already been created for us in the successes of those around us.

It's time to take notice of the great things happening in town, or else we risk leaving ourselves in the dust.

Austin Gooder is a Niagara College Journalism-Print student. You can e-mail him at austingoodermedia@gmail.com.

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Remembering an earlier day spent in Marcy Woods

I hope you don't mind here in early April 2016 if I recall an earlier day at Marcy Woods.

It was spring 1997. The days were getting longer. I was up early that April day. I love spring for it is again "the special beginning-of-the-world's-freshness and beauty." That day I received a call from old friend, Bufalonian, octogenarian, John Lesse. He could walk easily up the steep stairs at Marcy's Woods with me and take the high trail that I simply call the Bird Trail. John and I met out there and headed for the Bird Trail. John was an expert nature photographer but this day we each had only our



binoculars, mine were the little Nikon bird glasses and his were old Second World War big but powerful and with remarkably clear definition. We had a three hour walk on a beautiful Monday. This was my fourth trip here in four days. Why not? The hepatics were out in full bloom up here and the Dutchman's breeches

were coming out. Here and there trilliums were close to opening their blooms.

On this day there were few song birds but that will change. They didn't call this Bird Trail for naught. Even with no cameras present John gave me some valuable lessons on nature photography that day. John's portfolio of photographs taken over the years and throughout the year at Marcy's are outstanding. John was an artist with the camera just as the late Dave and Joy Marr of the Bert Miller Nature Club photographed so beautifully Marcy Woods over the years.

John simply said that he did it by doing.

"You'll make mistakes, Earl, but remember that all artists do." I had taken photos the day before with my close up lens and I wondered how good or bad they will turn out. I had done some things John that John told me not to do. I have to remember next time.

We met a number of people on this day. John was a very friendly person. We met Jim from Niagara Falls and he recognized my name. He said that he read my nature articles. Jim had seen a Rufous-sided towhee near the start of the trail. He was excited about

Marcy's. We pointed up to the Bird Trail and John said to Jim, "Take the Bird Trail on your way out. Remember to make new friends but keep the old." I will John.

John Lesse, nature photographer, had now turned 87 on April 19, 2008 when Ray Willwerth and I took him to Swayze Falls at Short Hills Provincial Park. Amazing! John had taken him there before. He wanted to see the giant old Oak tree again. We did. God's two venerable living creations.

Earl Plato is a resident of Fort Erie, local historian and nature lover.



Dutchman's breeches.

Melani Pyke to teach drawing and watercolours course at Sanctuary

Come on, spring, hit us with your best shot.

We need just a bit more consistency in the sun department so we can frolic outside. I'm thinking picnics, ball games and bike rides, though I guess I'll have to practice more patience for now.

Though the weather still isn't great, there is still much to do around town. Melani Pyke is offering a drawing and watercolours course at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts in Ridgeway for adults starting Thursday, April 14 from 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The class provides three weeks of drawing a vari-



NADINE PIZZICAROLA

Sanctuary for the Arts

ety of interesting subjects with an emphasis on realism, providing the skills needed for the subsequent three weeks of watercolor painting. The six-week class costs \$90 and includes all relevant materials. Please email feaclasses@gmail.com for more information and to register for the course.

The Old Man Rock Band is returning on Tuesday, April 26 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Get your inner rock star to shine through while recharging your musical skills in a caring and sharing environment for mature amateur musicians over the age of 35.

10 sessions with the band will give you practice, discussion and presentations for a fee of only \$150.

A live event is planned at the end of the class. Please visit www.oldmanrockband.com or email andy@oldmanrockband.com to register or

receive more info.

On May 8, Sloan will be visiting the sanctuary and tickets will cost \$30.

Sloan is one of Canada's most beloved bands and has been for more than 25 years.

Tickets are nearly sold out so if you're interested in attending, please purchase your tickets now. We are very excited to be hosting this iconic Canadian band at The Bell Tower Sanctuary. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased on www.ticketscene.ca and at Brimstone Brewing Company.

On May 14, the Albino

Rhino Beer Fest at the Sanctuary returns.

Tickets for this event are also available at Brimstone Brewing Company or www.ticketscene.ca for \$20, or purchased at the door for \$25.

Attendees must be 19 years old and up to attend. Please bring identification.

Tickets for this event always sell out fast, so don't delay in picking some up!

Vendors this year include Black Swan Brewing, Silversmith Brewing Company and food vendors like The Smokin' Buddha.

All proceeds from this

event go to the Ronald McDonald House in Toronto.

More great news out of the Canadian music scene as the band Dear Rogue has won a Juno for Breakthrough Group of the Year.

Dear Rogue has twice been featured as performers at the Sanctuary.

We're so incredibly proud of them.

For more information on any of our amazing events, like us on Facebook or visit www.thesanctuaryarts.org until next time.

Nadine Pizzicarola is the events coordinator for the Sanctuary Centre for the Performing Arts.

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From the gardener's journal

When the world has become greener with the rains and the sunshine, it is hard to recall the drab grey and cloudy skies of late winter.

And yet the clouds and rain are necessary to promote and build on the foundations of spring and the growing season. I know I prefer the warmth and the greening, how about you?

I often think of the snow we plant in the cold autumn ground, we hope for the best and surely with very little encouragement these bulbs produce at the first sign or two of a change of season. And doesn't that brighten our lives as we see these flashes



The Gardener's Journal

**RUTH
VOLD
MARKLE**

of colour through wind and rain and the last bit of winter. I guess the reminder here is to be always as hopeful as these bulbs and to produce as much colour as we can in our season.

As winter winds down we see the subtle changes in the colour and sounds of the lake. The silence of ice has made way for bird song and the wave rhythm. Along the

trails those early wild flowers peek through the layer of leavings and winter pile. The trillium are on their way to full bloom this month. And a sure sign of spring, everyone is outside whenever the sun is warm and enjoying each other's company after the winter stretch. In our neighbourhood the sounds of children at recess fill the air with another little of spring. And we find some of those dissipated knees speak to us as we move and begin working on our outside spaces. In the greenhouse the winter is long past. All the flowering blooms are truly showing off and the sleep of winter is gone as the tropicals green up and begin to

bloom. The seedlings are well established and putting on yet another growth spurt. Waiting on their time to be planted in the great outdoors. The summering bulbs are making their presence known in the arrangements soon to be placed outdoors. It seems as if everything is poised and ready for the next step in growth.

By month's end the length of daylight hours will be almost 14. The full moon is on the April 22 this and that may be the last cool combination of spring. Staying hopeful of course!

Keeping in mind this wonderful "greening time" the recipe this time is for Spring Soup. (See box).

A few pithy quotes reached my desk this week and I thought I would pass them along: "Yesterday's news is good for the compost heap"; "If only you could teach a dog to bury bulbs"; "The bright blue sky always returns and chases away gray clouds"; "In a well tended garden hope springs, flowers and vegetables smile

and love blossoms"; "Live each day as if it is a memory in the making".

See you along the trails, at the beach walks and gardens and in the greening outdoors. Until next time, keep growing.

Ruth Vold Markle is the vice-president of The Fort Erie Horticultural Society.

- Spring Soup**
- 2 garlic cloves: minced or pressed
 - 1 cup chopped onions
 - 1 small carrot peeled and minced
 - 1 celery stalk, minced
 - 1 tsp fresh thyme (1 tsp dried)
 - 1 tsp fresh basil (1

- tsp dried)
- 1/4 cup water
- In a covered soup pot on low heat cook the garlic, onions, carrots, celery, thyme and basil until the vegetables have just softened, about 10 minutes. Add: six cups vegetable stock. Add three fresh plum

- tomatoes chopped. Bring this to a boil. Then add 11/2 cups fresh lima beans (or frozen) 1 pound fresh asparagus, cut into 1 inch lengths (or 8 oz frozen asparagus) and return to a boil. Then stir in 1/4 pound spaghetti broken into 2 inch lengths. Cook

- until al dente, just nicely softened. Add 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp lemon juice and 1/2 cups fresh or frozen green peas. Cook for an additional 5 minutes then serve hot. For additional flavour serve soup with fresh whole wheat rolls. This will get your spring juices flowing!

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Heath Corner

Crown Yourself with Confidence

Many times, I have come across people asking about crowns (also known as Caps). Here is a list of common questions that I have been asked, followed by my responses about crown procedures.

- 1. What is a Crown?**
A crown is a tooth-shaped material that is specifically and individually designed to fit over a pre-shaped tooth that is otherwise broken down or at risk for breaking down in the near future.
- 2. What are the benefits of Crowns?**
A crown can protect a tooth that is heavily filled from a split or fracture. Recent studies show that if a filling covers 1/3 of the tooth width, that tooth has twice the chance of breaking compared to a non-filled tooth. It can also create a life-like tooth and recreate the smile that you used to have or never had.
- 3. What are the risks of crowning your teeth?**
The sooner the treatment is done, the less likely you will encounter any risks. There is a 6% chance that your tooth will require a root canal treatment following a crown procedure. Again, this totally depends on the condition of the tooth. The more damage the tooth has sustained over its lifetime, the more likely that tooth ends up needing root



Dr. John Inigo



before



after

canal treatment. Again, the key to minimizing risk is early treatment for affected tooth.

4. How long does a crown last?
Studies show that on average, a crown lasts from 7 to 13 years. This depends on how you use it, your regular home oral care and most importantly whether you are able to

maintain regular visits to your dentist in order to receive a professional dental cleaning and exam.

- 5. How do I know which tooth needs a crown?**
If you have a filling that covers at least 1/3 of the tooth width, a crown is recommended. The more tooth structure you have, the smaller the crown needs to be. This will lead to the preservation of healthy tooth structure. Your dentist can give you an accurate assessment of the need for a crown.
- 6. What can happen if I decide not to go ahead with crowns as recommended by my dentist?**
Teeth requiring crowns are at a higher risk for fracture, breakage or splitting. Fractured teeth are often difficult to restore and often need additional treatment such as root canal or posts. Split teeth can't be saved. They need to be extracted and replaced with a permanent, fixed or removable denture.
- Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie, Ontario and Ridgeway, Ontario. For more information and previous articles about oral health, visit www.inigodentistry.com or call Inigo Bertie Dentistry 905-871-2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry 905-894-5555.**

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Fort Erie Secondary School alumna shares passion for culinary arts

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie Secondary School is proud to celebrate past students who have found success in their post-secondary careers.

According to vice-principal Crate Gittins, it's important to the faculty and the school itself to pay close attention to former students.

"When you get to know the school, you see we have a phenomenal focus on student success," Gittins said.

All of the staff are focussed on bringing out the best in the students."

This focus on student success is evident in the passion both Gittins and other staff show their students.

One particular student being celebrated by the school last week was culinary student Kelly Plato.

Plato, a FESS graduate, began in the foods program at the school when she was a Grade 10 student.

Plato's aunt pushed her to enter the culinary program.

"She said 'Worst case scenario you'll know how to cook,'" Plato said.

She quickly fell in love with baking.

"I knew within a few weeks (in class) that I wanted to bake," she said.

Plato always liked to bake, but the program helped her realize her passion for it.

"It's all about using your imagination to create something."

The grad is quiet and reserved, but her enthusiasm for her craft is evident when she talks about her beginnings in the program.

"I remember icing and decorating a Spongebob cake," Plato said.

She has come a long way since that Spongebob cake. Last week, Plato showed current FESS students how to create pastry roses.

Connie Engels, a program leader at FESS, was part of the faculty that helped Plato develop her skills and her ambition.

Engels is impressed with Plato, not just for her skills, but for her dedication to sharing those skills with young students.

"Kelly has been able to document each stage of her realizing success," Engels said.

Students are appreciative of the opportunity to learn from someone who has current experience in the field, said Engels, who believes that Plato's experience is valuable to yearning students.

"It's a big deal for the kids here," Engels said.

"Students see someone on a regular basis who has found success and it influences them."

Plato's experience began at FESS and ends in a long list of accolades, opportunities and recognitions.

After an apprenticeship with the Niagara Parks Commission, she became the first ever high school student recognized at the Parks Apprenticeship Dinner as her pastry dish was the showcase dessert served at the event.

Plato is appreciative of the support the staff has provided her over the years.

She specifically mentioned teacher Ashvin Kishniy, who



AUSTIN GOODER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Kelly Plato, a Fort Erie Secondary School graduate, came home to demonstrate her skills during a culinary class at the school last week.

heads the culinary program at FESS.

"Mr. Keyvani is such a great teacher. He helps foster the development of students," she said.

"Any time you want to practice, or try a new recipe, Mr. Keyvani donates his time."

Plato has now graduated from Niagara College, and she's soon to set out on the trip of a lifetime.

She will be travelling to

Germany to work as an assistant pastry chef on a German riverboat cruise.

Engels said Plato was offered the job based on how great her references were.

"They called Kelly and said, 'We're going to skip the interview, and we'd like to offer you the position.'"

Later, Plato donned her black uniform and stepped once again into the FESS kitchen.

She walked table to table, showing the high school students how to perfect their technique.

Plato assisted the students in creating roses out of lumps of pastry. She showed them how to create the wide base and narrow top, similar to a cone, that is most conducive to shaping the small edible flowers.

Plato took a moment to pause and reflect on her definition of success.

"As long as you never stop learning, you're successful," she said.

"As long as you're taking what you know and sharing it with other people, you're successful."

Austin Gooder is a Niagara College Journalism-Print student. You can e-mail him at austingoodermedia@gmail.com.



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Fort Erie set to celebrate 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie is set to celebrate the anniversary of an event that shaped the foundation of Canadian history and led to the birth of a new nation.

It was on a sweltering day, June 2, 1866, when troops were called to Fort Erie to defend against an invasion from a Buffalo army.

Between 800 to 1,200 soldiers from the Fenian Army arrived with the intention of capturing the Province of Canada, a piece of British North America, and trading it for Ireland's freedom.

As a result of the Battle of Ridgeway, the colonies felt they could better defend themselves instead of relying on Britain for their defence and talks toward Confederation hastened. One year later, in 1867, Canada was born.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway and the community is invited to celebrate, said Jane Davies, Fort Erie Historical Museum and Cultural Services manager.

"I'm really excited. Plans for the celebration of the 150th anniversary have been two years in the making," she said.

The Town of Fort Erie is hosting a series of events to mark the occasion, which are being coordinated by Davies and Russ Wilson, the Town's general manager of Community Gaming Development Services.

Many community partners and hundreds of volunteers have come together to make the events possible.

Wilson said residents will

be given "a rare opportunity to celebrate" the occasion with Canada's Armed Forces.

The descendants of the regiments who fought at the Battle of Ridgeway more than a century ago are returning to commemorate the important event in Canadian history. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry will participate in a parade, ceremony and festival on June 4.

A formal military parade will begin at Crystal Ridge Arena at noon. The soldiers will march up Ridge Road to the Battle of Ridgeway Park on Highway 3.

An hour-long ceremony that includes a parachute drop, period music, plaque unveiling and a tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives during the battle will begin at 1 p.m.

Free parking and a shuttle bus service will be made available to the public at the Crystal Ridge Arena to transport visitors to and from the ceremony site.

Wilson said he expects a large crowd will attend the event, which is why Highway 3 will be closed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Wilson said the festivities will continue at Crystal Ridge Arena Park between 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The family-friendly events, which are free, will include tactical demonstrations, weapons and uniform displays, artifact displays, interactive children's activities, food and music.

For more information about the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway visit

www.museum.forterie.ca
s.ferguson@postmedia.com



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Town of Fort Erie is hosting a series of events to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway. The festivities are being coordinated by Jane Davies, Fort Erie Historical Museum and Cultural Services manager, and Russ Wilson, the Town's general manager of Community Gaming Development Services.

2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

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36 to 40	1320.00	1540.00	1980.00
41 to 46	1540.00	1760.00	2860.00
47 & over	1760.00	1980.00	3300.00

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STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING - VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPATION

The Town of Fort Erie has initiated a Secondary Plan process for the "Southend" Neighbourhood. The Town's Official Plan directs that Secondary Plans be developed for the various neighbourhoods within Fort Erie's urban area boundaries, to provide a more detailed view on how and where our neighbourhoods should grow over the long term. Secondary Plans show things like:

- providing different forms of housing for different incomes, family needs and age-in-place options
- where singles, semis, townhomes or apartment buildings should go;
- where our recreational and park spaces are and we might improve connections to them;
- where our shopping districts and employment areas belong and can be supported;
- it reinforces appropriate protection of environmental or natural feature areas; and
- how all these things should fit together with roads, sidewalks and trails.

To help us start gathering early background information, the Town wishes to engage people who call the Southend Neighbourhood their home. **We are looking for members of this community to offer us opinion on issues that are important to them.**

At this time, the Town is inviting interested persons who wish to participate as a voluntary member of a Community Focus Group to submit an Expression of Interest. The Town wishes to assemble a representative cross-section of persons from within the Southend Neighbourhood including:

- long time residents
- new residents
- business owners
- association representatives
- landowner/developers

Interested persons are requested to submit their name, address, contact information and identify in which capacity they see themselves as representing (from the five categories listed above).

Interested persons are advised their participation should be open-minded, focusing on their community at large. All aspects of the community will be discussed as the Community Focus Group will participate in developing a vision statement, goals, objectives and priorities for the future development and redevelopment of this community.

The Focus Group will participate in a four hour strategic focus exercise and will be consulted on several occasions during the Secondary Plan's development for additional input. Details on meeting dates have yet to be determined. At this time, the Town is seeking to establish the Focus Group, which is expected to be between 10-12 persons maximum. Town staff, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, will provide a recommended list of names to Council for their consideration and endorsement.

If you are interested in contributing your thoughts and opinion towards creating a long term vision for your community and wish to be considered for participation, kindly submit a letter or an e-mail no later than Thursday, April 21 2016 with the information requested above to the attention of:

Chris Millar, CPT, MCIP, RPP, Neighbourhood Planner
Planning and Development Services Department
 1 Municipal Centre Drive
 Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6
 (905) 871-1600 ext. 2503
 cmillar@forterie.ca



Persons submitting their expression of interest and those selected to participate are advised their names will become part of public record and may be published in relation to this planning exercise.

Accessibility Accommodation

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate or attend meetings, kindly advise in your response so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Note Regarding Open Public Participation

There will be additional Public Information Meetings, open to general public at various points throughout the Secondary Planning Process, inviting comments on Plan development. These Public Information Meetings will be advertised in the Fort Erie Times, on the Town's website and announced at Council Meetings.

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6

(905) 871-1600 • Fax (905) 871-4022 • www.forterie.on.ca

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600

RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM



NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

FENCE REGULATIONS

TOWN INITIATED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

APPLICATION 350309-0406

DATE: MAY 2, 2016

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS



LOCATION OF SUBJECT LANDS

A LOCATION MAP IS NOT PROVIDED WITH THIS NOTICE, AS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS APPLY TO VARIOUS LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE.



WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT CHANGE:

- The proposed amendment will remove Sections 6.54, 6.55, 6.66 pertaining to the regulation of fences in the Zoning By-law No. 129-90.
- The proposed amendment will revise Fence Bylaw 70-2013 to ensure all regulations are up to date and to remove any reference to the Town's Zoning By-law No. 129-90.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Input on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town. Please note that unless you do one of the above now, you may not be able to appeal the decision later. A copy of the Information Report will be available to the public by 5:00 PM on April 27, 2016. The Information report will be available in the Council agenda portion of the Town's Web Site: www.forterie.ca or from the Planning and Development Services Department.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Denise Landry, Senior Development Planner Planning and Development Services Department, Town Hall, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6
905-871-1600, ext. 2507 Or by e-mailing your comments to: dlandry@forterie.ca

PROVIDING YOUR COMMENTS OR REQUESTING NOTICE OF DECISION

To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision of the Zoning By-law Amendment, please send a letter c/o the Town Clerk Laura Bubanko, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6 or an email to lbubanko@forterie.ca



PLANNING ACT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Fort Erie in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendment before the By-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Fort Erie to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Fort Erie in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendment before the By-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board, unless in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to Laura Bubanko, Town Clerk and such request should include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

FENCE REGULATIONS

TOWN INITIATED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

APPLICATION 350309-0406

DATE: APRIL 19, 2016

TIME: 5:00- 6:00PM

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL TOWN HALL



IMPORTANT

A LOCATION MAP IS NOT PROVIDED WITH THIS NOTICE, AS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS APPLY TO VARIOUS LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE.

THIS IS AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ON THE TOWN INITIATED AMENDMENTS. THIS IS AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING WITH TOWN STAFF.



WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT CHANGE:

- The proposed amendment will remove Sections 6.54, 6.55, 6.66 pertaining to the regulation of fences in the Zoning By-law No. 129-90.
- The proposed amendment will revise Fence Bylaw 70-2013 to ensure all regulations are up to date and to remove any reference to the Town's Zoning By-law No. 129-90.



PROVIDING YOUR COMMENTS OR GETTING MORE INFORMATION

Commenting on the proposed amendments is encouraged. You can provide input by calling or writing the Town. You are also invited to attend the meeting to speak with staff.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Denise Landry, Senior Development Planner Planning and Development Services Department, Town Hall, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6
905-871-1600, ext. 2507
Or by e-mailing your comments to: dlandry@forterie.ca



FUTURE NOTICE REQUESTS

This Public Information Open House is being conducted to allow public and stakeholders with an opportunity to meet with Town Planning staff prior to the formal legislative meeting in front of Council.

A statutory Public Meeting required under the Planning Act will be scheduled for May 2, 2016 and will be posted in the Times newspaper and online.

If you wish to receive notice of the Public Meeting, you are requested to provide your name and a current e-mail address or mailing address where the Notice is to be sent.

Please use the contact information above to notify Denise Landry of the preferred notice option. Staff would kindly request you consider e-mail delivery as preferred choice



NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P 13, ss.17(23), O.Reg. 543/06

APPLICANT: THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE
FILE #: 350302-0099 & 350313-004
PROJECT: OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 28
 DOUGLASTOWN-BLACK CREEK SECONDARY PLAN

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed By-law No. 34-2016 being a by-law to adopt Amendment No. 28 to the Official Plan for the Town of Fort Erie Planning Area on the 29th day of March, 2016 under Section 17(22) of the Planning Act.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the by-law by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie not later than the 27th day of April, 2016, a notice of the appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection.

Any appeal must be accompanied by the Board's fee of \$125.00. A certified cheque or money order in this amount made payable to the Minister of Finance must accompany the Notice of Appeal.

The proposed Official Plan Amendment is exempt from approval by the Regional Municipality of Niagara. The decision of the Council is final if a notice of appeal is not received on or before the last day for filing a Notice of Appeal.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

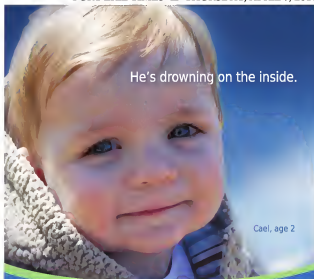
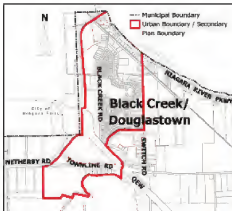
Only individuals, corporations or public bodies may appeal a decision of the Municipality to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a Notice of Appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The purpose and effect of By-law No. 34-2016 is to adopt Official Plan Amendment No. 28, being the Douglastown-Black Creek Secondary Plan. The Plan directs how this neighbourhood / community is intended to grow over the long term relative to the location and various forms of land use, such as future residential, commercial, open space and environmental protection, and how these relate to the community's existing or built up area. The Plan provides additional permitted employment uses to the highway commercial designation and identifies localized areas of residential intensification for age-in-place opportunities such as apartments or assisted living. The Plan also provides supporting policy recognizing limited private residential servicing in existing privately serviced areas and affords opportunities for expansion of the Black Creek Leisure Homes development, all within the existing urban area boundary.

The map included on this notice shows the limits of the community to which the amendment applies. There are properties within the Secondary Plan Area where land use designations have been changed as a result of Official Plan Amendment No. 28. For details on the complete secondary plan and zoning change process, you can visit the Town's website at: [http://www.forterie.ca/pages/SecondaryPlanDouglastown\(BkCrk\)](http://www.forterie.ca/pages/SecondaryPlanDouglastown(BkCrk)) or contact Planning and Development Services at Town Hall. A copy of the approved by-law amendment can also be reviewed at Town Hall.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2016
 LAURA BUBANKO, MANAGER, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES / CLERK



He's drowning on the inside.

Cael, age 2

"When Cael was born, he looked like such a healthy baby on the outside. Two weeks later, when the doctors told us Cael had cystic fibrosis, we were devastated. Today, I realize how lucky we are to have Cael. He's the most important thing in the world to us, and we pray for a cure that will let us keep our son for a lifetime."

Cael's mother, Nicole

Cystic fibrosis is a fatal disease that fits the lungs with fluid, making every breath a struggle. Yours is the same. Cael needs, and the reason people with cystic fibrosis are living longer. Learn more and support cystic fibrosis research.
cysticfibrosis.ca 1-800-378-2233



THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6
 (905) 871-1600 • Fax (905) 871-4022 • www.forterie.on.ca
 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600
 RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM



HAPPY NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 10-16, 2016

Mayor Redekop and Members of Council express their appreciation and gratitude to all volunteers in the Town of Fort Erie for their service, dedication and commitment.

"VOLUNTEERS ARE THE ROOTS OF STRONG COMMUNITIES"



SUPPORT PROGRAMS WORK WITH YOUR MONEY.

Canadian
Cancer
Society



Société
canadienne
du cancer

1 888 939-3333



NOTICE OF PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P 13, ss.34(18), O.Reg. 545/06

APPLICANT:

FILE #:

PROJECT:

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

350309-0417 & 350313-004

ZONING IMPLEMENTATION

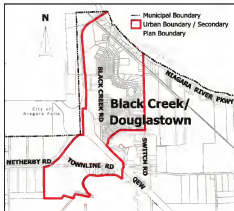
DOUGLASTOWN-BLACK CREEK SECONDARY PLAN

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed **By-law No. 35-2016** on the 29th day of March, 2016 under section 34 of The Planning Act, 1990.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the by-law by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie not later than the 27th day of April, 2016, a notice of the appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection. Any appeal must be accompanied by the Board's fee of \$125.00.

A certified cheque or money order in this amount made payable to the Minister of Finance must accompany the Notice of Appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a zoning by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a Notice of Appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.



PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The purpose and effect of By-law No. 35-2016 is to amend Town of Fort Erie Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 129-90 by changing the zoning of various lands located within the Douglastown-Black Creek community in order to implement the land-use recommendations of the Douglastown-Black Creek Secondary Plan (Official Plan Amendment No. 28).

Zoning regulates the use of lands for which they are intended and designated under the Official Plan. Zoning identifies details such as permitted uses, building height and location on a property, the amount of space a building can occupy, landscaping and parking requirements. Specific limitations can be identified such as an exact distance or measurement, or a range can be used through minimum or maximum permissions.

In addition to making general zoning changes, several site specific zoning exceptions were also added to recognize previous or updated regulations for specific sites within the community. Furthermore, Schedule "A" Maps 14, 15, and 25, to By-law No. 129-90 will be repealed and replaced to consolidate and illustrate the change areas.

The map included on this notice shows the limits of the community to which the amendment applies. These are properties within the Secondary Plan Area where the permitted land uses have been changed as a result of the zoning amendment. For details on the complete secondary plan and zoning change process, you can visit the Town's website at: [http://www.forterie.ca/pages/SecondaryPlanDouglastown\(BlkCrk\)](http://www.forterie.ca/pages/SecondaryPlanDouglastown(BlkCrk)) or contact Planning and Development Services at Town Hall. A copy of the approved by-law amendment can also be reviewed at Town Hall.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2016

LAURA BUBANKO, MANAGER, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES / CLERK



THE
MILL
GREENHOUSES
RIDGWAY

Your All Season Garden Centre

NOW OPEN

HOURS:

MONDAY - SATURDAY
9AM to 5PM

2594 Dominion Rd.
905-894-8466

WWW.THEMILLRIDGWAY.COM



Find us on
Facebook

Early Season Perennial Sale

All Perennials

\$6⁰⁰ each

or 6 for \$30

Reg. \$8⁹⁹ each

Offer Ends

April 30, 2016

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6

(905) 871-1600 • Fax (905) 871-4022 • www.forterie.on.ca

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600

RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY ON A BOARD OR COMMITTEE

The Town of Fort Erie is served not only by elected officials but by volunteers as well through appointment to its various boards and committees. The Town is looking to attract people who have an interest in contributing to their community.

The Clerk is accepting applications from residents, business owners/operators or taxpayers interested in serving on the Communities-in-Bloom Committee or the Property Standards Committee where vacancies exist.

FLOWERS/BEAUTIFICATION

Communities-in-Bloom Committee
Two (2) Vacancies



APPEALS/HEARINGS

Property Standards Committee
One (1) Vacancy



For more information on the committee above, please see the establishing by-law on the Town's website: www.forterie.ca under "Government" - "Boards & Committees" - "Communities-in-Bloom Committee" and "Property Standards Committee."

We look forward to receiving your application by **Wednesday, April 13, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.** Applications are available:

- On the Town's website www.forterie.ca under **Announcements - Public Notice - Vacancies on Committees, or from the Clerk's Office.**
- Or you can submit a letter setting out relevant background information.

Submissions will be accepted by the Clerk via:

1. Email: lbubanko@forterie.ca
2. Mail: Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6
3. Hand delivery to the Customer Service Desk, Town Hall
4. Fax: 905-871-4022

Cheryl Watson, Legislative Assistant, welcomes enquiries at 905-871-1600 ext. 2212 or email: cwatson@forterie.ca

This information is being collected pursuant to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to select persons for appointments to Town of Fort Erie boards and committees. A public ballot process is used when an election is required to select an appointee. The ballots are public documents.

Laura Bubanko, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk, Town of Fort Erie

Helping make healthy meals possible



QUEEN OF CLUBS/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Queen of Clubs recently presented a \$1,200 cheque to representatives of Fort Erie Meals on Wheels. Through the Meals on Wheels program, volunteers serve hot and cold meals to seniors and other vulnerable individuals in the community. The money was raised during the Queen of Clubs pasta dinner held in February. In the picture, from left, are Queen of Clubs members Joan Dube, Maggie Golding, Fort Erie Meals on Wheels chairman John Newton, Queen of Clubs member Wendy Gibson, and Meals on Wheels members Julio Romero and Tim Wisbey.



RED, WHITE
&
BACON



New! Maple Bacon Sundae

1637 Pettit Road
Fort Erie 905.871.0777



Honey Jalapeño Bacon
Sriracha Burger



Triple Bacon Sampler



Honey Jalapeño
Bacon Slam™



Loaded Bacon, Steak
and Potato Skillet

Prom Project gives the gift of glitz

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Kinettes are once again giving the gift of glitz and glamour to local graduates.

Fort Erie Secondary School will play host to Prom Project Niagara, which provides gowns, suits, accessories and other prom items to students in need, free of charge.

Fort Erie Kinetite Kelly Kendrick says that the project wasn't always as it is now.

"Prom Project in Fort Erie actually started as Diva on a Dime from the Fort Erie Kinetites," says Kendrick.

The Kinetites were unaware of the District School Board of Niagara's (DSBN) Education Foundation of Niagara and their work with Thorold Secondary School in providing gowns and suits to students.

It wasn't until the Kinetites solicited the help of Pike Dry Cleaning on Jarvis Street that they learned of the DSBN's project.

"We started it four years ago, and after the first year we did find out that the District School Board had the program and we became affiliated with them," says Kendrick.

"We wanted our children to have the same thing, and to not have to go out of town."

The first year of the project was tougher for the Kinetites than it is now.

"In our first year, we relied strictly on Fort Erie. We actually pulled it off."

With the advertising power from the Education Foundation, as well as sponsor Pen Financial Credit Union, the Kinetites have been able to significantly upgrade their event selections.

Donations have been coming in to both Pen Financials in town, on Jarvis Street and Garrison Road.

Both locations will collect items until April 8.

All items will be free to students who are graduating from Grade 8, high school or attending a prom.

"The only thing we ask from the students is which school they're graduating from, so we can keep the statistics," says Kendrick.

Last year, the event had students come from as far as Port Colborne, she said.

"It's for any graduating student that's in need of formal wear," she continues.

The event, hosted at FESS, will also include free makeup tutorials from Shoppers Drug Mart cosmetic staff.

Also, Elite Hairstyles from Welland is donating 12 hair styling treatments to students.

Prom Project is all part of the Kinetites' effort to make it a one-stop experience for graduates.

"We really try to make them think 'Wow, this is great,'" says Kendrick.

"It's a great program. It's probably my favourite out of everything we do."

The Kinetites will be opening their one-day boutique at FESS on April 9 at 9:30 a.m.



AUSTIN GOODER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Prom Project aims to give a free prom experience for graduating students in the Niagara Region on April 9, at Fort Erie Secondary School.



Thinking about quitting? Give us a call.

smokersHELPLINE

1-877-513-5333

Smoking cessation support by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Fort Erie Fire & Emergency Services

Firefighters Wanted

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Volunteer Firefighter in Fort Erie, please attend one of our open houses:

Monday, April 18th

7pm – 9pm

Fort Erie Central Station
444 Central Avenue

Thursday, April 21st

7pm-9pm

Fort Erie Fire Station #4
398 Ridge Rd. North



For more information or to download the volunteer firefighter application form Scan the QR code or visit our website

www.forterie.ca/pages/fireadministration



Briefs

Council considers rezoning Bay Beach parking lot

Fort Erie Council took another step toward rezoning the Bay Beach area after they unofficially approved rezoning a parking lot adjacent to the beach.

Council considered rezoning the property at 4152 Erie Rd. from a commercial use to a mixed-use zone at Monday's council-in-committee meeting. This change would permit residential and commercial uses.

Town staff delivered a report to council which included potential uses for the property, such as a 12-unit town house development, a mixed use commercial and residential apartment building and a 72-unit hotel.

Town staff made changes to the report following a public meeting held last month. The changes include a new property setback from road allowances. The new setback will be at a depth of one half metre from Erie, Eastwood and Schooley Roads.

This setback was worked into the development proposal after concerns were brought forward by area residents at that public meeting.

Kira Dolch, the Town's acting director of planning and development services, emphasized to council that the half-metre setback was from the end road allowances and not from driving lanes on Erie Road.

Drawing the setback from the property line rather than the driving area provides ample room for snow removal and for a sufficient boulevard between the road and new

development.

Town staff will present council with another report and zoning changes will be formally approved at a future council meeting.

Garrison Little Theatre finishes season with a comedy

Garrison Little Theatre's season is winding down with a little western twist.

Ned Durango Comes to Big Oak is a comedy written by Canadian Norm Foster. The show opens on April 8 at the Italo-Canadian

Club with a show-only performance. Other performances will include lunch or dinner.

Tickets are available for purchase at Fort Erie Paints at 401 Garrison Rd. More information can be found by visiting www.garrisonlittletheatre.com.

Grant will create smooth ride for cyclists

A newly-formed Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program (OMCIP) will create a smooth ride between Riverwalk and Bowen Road.

Town of Fort Erie staff applied for a new matching-funds grant from OMCIP to help shore up deficiencies in the current cycling zone on the Niagara River.

The project is expected to cost \$500,000. Niagara Parks Commission will provide \$150,000, the Town will pay \$100,000, and OMCIP will match costs by granting the project \$250,000.

OMCIP was created to help provide municipalities with funding for projects that create a better cycling network in Ontario.



Michelle Marcil & David Doherty's



Stag & Doe TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, April 9th, 2016, 6 pm to 10 pm

Ridgeway Legion Branch 230

228 Southmill St., Ridgeway

Each \$20.00 ticket includes

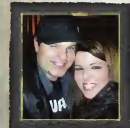
TRIVIA, Prizes, Pizza, Snacks and a chance to **WIN an Ipad Mini!!** (you don't have to be present to win!)

- Games of Chance • Treasure Trove • 50/50 Draw
- Non-alcoholic beverages available

For tickets call:

Kate Marcil 289-321-0229 • Susan Doherty 905-382-6530

Katrina Carson 289-213-8850



STAG AND DOE

LISA & WES

MCLAREN KLAUCK

SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2016

7PM-1AM

CRYSTAL RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

TICKETS \$5 *LIVE MUSIC * GAMES * PRIZES * FOOD

Open House for

Burdett Sisler

in honour of his

101st Birthday

Sunday April 10th, 2016 • 1pm to 4pm

128 Dominion Rd. (entrance on Edwards St.)

Fort Erie

Best Wishes Only



STAG & DOE

in honour of Brianna Reay & Matt Goch

Saturday April 9th, 2016 • 7:00pm - 1:00am

Crystal Ridge Community Centre • 99 Ridge Rd. S, Ridgeway

Join Us & Celebrate

DJ - FOOD - DRINKS - GAMES - PRIZES

Tickets available \$5 at the door for \$5

SEE YOU THERE!

BOB'S SIDING
WAREHOUSE
VINYL SIDING
\$84.99/SQ.
(905) 894-4808
3704 Midland St. (at Highway 10)

BRICKS & Bouquets

REGIONAL ROOFING & SIDING CO.
FOR ALL YOUR ROOFING AND SIDING NEEDS
905-894-4808
3704 Midland St. (at Highway 10)

A bouquet for friends
A bouquet for my friends and neighbours who have taken care of me while I have been so sick for over three weeks. I hope the end is in sight.

Bouquet for Easter egg hunt

A huge bouquet for my neighbour and her best friend for all the hard work they put into the planning, organizing and execution of an Easter egg hunt for the neighbourhood kids on Good Friday. The little ones had a blast and it was refreshing to attend something that was strictly for the kids. Good job ladies! Well done!

Bouquet for Town

A bouquet for the Town of Fort Erie for sweeping the Friendship trail this past week. The trail is now safer for cyclists, roller bladers, joggers and all those that enjoy the trail, free of hazards that the past winter had left behind.

Brick for a dog owner

A huge brick for the couple who lets their big dog poop all the way up Dufferin Street and run loose to poop all over everyone's lawns. Your old dog is not just pooping all over the sidewalks where people walk but there are other dog owners with dogs in this neighbourhood who pick up after their dogs and you clearly let him do this if you can't be a responsible dog owner and watch your old dog and pick up his droppings for us all

to have a clean neighbourhood then keep him on a leash and watch him!

Bouquet for spring

A bouquet for spring! I am so happy it is finally here. The sun is coming out more often and I can hear the lovely sound of birds chirping.

Bouquet for a restaurant

My food was delicious and the waitress was so friendly and helpful and even the chef came out to see if I enjoyed my meal. I noticed also how clean everything was so I would give The Lucky Bamboo in Fort Erie a big bouquet. Give it a try for sure.

Brick for a thief

We had a nice wrought iron ornamental address sign stolen one night. We moved to Ridgeway because it is a nice community. Until now! We now join many who have been made victims of a surge in this kind of crime in the area. I want the person who took it to know that they stole it from a senior and his wife. If you intend to use your ill gotten prize the number '79' will be seen sooner or later. If it's your house, watch out for an angry senior at your door!

Send us your bricks and bouquets

Has someone done something nice for you and you would like to thank them? Do you have something to complain about? Send us your bricks and bouquets by e-mail to safeguards@postmedia.ca, or drop them off to Fort Erie Times; 336 Central Ave.; Fort Erie, Ont.; L2A 3T6.

JEWELLERY AND WATCH REPAIR
WE DO IT ALL!

Bridgeburg Jewellers
44 Jarvis Street
Fort Erie
Now carrying Helene Weinman
905-994-1561


SOUTH SHORE
TAX SERVICE
PERSONAL INCOME
TAX PREPARATION
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Volunteers honoured for making Fort Erie a beautiful place to live

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Greater Fort Erie is a beautiful place to live because of the Communities in Bloom Committee and the Crystal Beach Beautification Committee.

Thanks to the efforts of these groups, Fort Erie has been selected as one of the top three winners of the Communities in Bloom Canada's 2015 National Photo Contest. The other winning photos were taken in Souris, PE and Minnedosa, MB.

Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts presented both committees with special plaques in the council chambers last Tuesday night to commemorate their success.

Fort Erie was one of many municipalities across Canada invited to submit photos for the contest.

The purpose of the contest and the Communities in Bloom program is to "foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification," Lubberts said.

The winning photo was taken by a member of the

Crystal Beach Beautification Committee. The picture highlights a floral bike display on Erie Road. It was one of many floral bike displays in the community last year.

Fort Erie's photo, along with the other winners' photos will be published in the Communities in Bloom Magazine. The photos will also be featured on the Communities in Bloom website and other promotional material.

Winners will also be awarded with a \$50 gift certificate to Home Hardware. Lubberts said the gift card the committees will receive will be raffled off at a future Communities in Bloom event.

As part of the Communities in Bloom Committee, Lubberts said Crystal Beach Beautification Committee members volunteer "endless hours of community service hours to beautify Crystal Beach" in a number of ways. These initiatives include planters, hanging baskets, floral displays and the floral bicycle program.

saferguson@postmedia.com



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Communities in Bloom Committee and the Crystal Beach Beautification Committee were presented plaques on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 for their efforts to make Fort Erie a more beautiful place to live, work and play. The Crystal Beach Beautification Committee was selected as one of the winners of Communities in Bloom Canada's 2015 National Photo Contest.

From left are (front row) Signe Hanson, Gabrielle Todd, Patricia Bossert, Margaret Feaver, Winnie Swalm, Orma Bleeks, Carole Audette-Bouacok, Mayor Wayne Redekop, (back row) Sharon Gill, Karen Audet, Michel Blondeau, Louise Wilson, Carl Uloth, and Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Gord is very pleased to announce, that **BOB MURRAY** is joining the group at Gord's **FORT ERIE DRIVING SCHOOL**. Bob is a life time resident of FORT ERIE. For many years, he has been active in BEGINNER DRIVER EDUCATION as both an in-car driving instructor and a classroom teacher. Bob is anxious to add his expertise to that of the group at Gord's, where he can continue to provide excellent "driver education", for the residents of all the FORT ERIE area.



Fundraiser for the new centre for the arts hopes to bring Hollywood weather north

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

The pomp and circumstance of Hollywood don't often include having a cold beverage on the patio.

Fundraisers for the Fort Erie Centre for the Arts are hoping to help those two worlds collide.

On May 12, co-chairs and town councillors Marina Butler and Stephen Passero, are throwing an all-out bash at the Fort Erie Leisureplex as part of the ongoing efforts to meet the \$2 million goal set by fundraisers.

"Great food, great music and a great time. That's the kind of night we're striving for," said Butler, the councillor for ward four.

For \$75, guests will be welcomed with hors d'oeuvres prepared by Fort Erie Secondary School's Pomegranate Restaurant, and a full barbecue-themed dinner prepared by PigOut catering.

The night also includes a plethora of guests, ranging from local singer-songwriters to dance troupes and musicians.

Opening the night is local talents Spencer Mackenzie and the Young Rebels.



AUSTIN GOODER/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES
Stephen Passero and Marina Butler are seen shivering outside of the Fort Erie Leisureplex. They hope some Hollywood weather comes north soon.

CONTINUED > PAGE 24

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Over \$400,000 has been raised for the Greater Fort Erie Centre for the Arts

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 23

At only 16, Mackenzie has already made a name for himself by belting out hits from Eric Clapton and John Mayer.

During dinner, Juno-winning Pappy Johns Band will be singing the blues.

They'll be followed by Westwind, Serena Pryne and the Mandevilles, and Guilty Pleasures.

Organizers made a concerted effort to stuff the evening with renowned local talent, and they've succeeded.

Nearly every musical act or performer picked to play has ties to Fort Erie. The excitement doesn't end on stage.

The evening also includes an elimination draw for a trip to New York City, among other prizes.

In keeping with the patio theme, a cash bar will also be available.

Passero says fundraising efforts have been successful so far, but he hopes to have further good news after the party ends.

He's also excited about what planners have done to create the patio vibe.

"It's going to be an awesome time for sure," Passero said.

"And the perfect setting to enjoy some delicious food and listen to fantastic entertainment in the company of friends."

All proceeds from ticket sales and the cash bar will be guided towards fundraising efforts for the new theatre and arts centre.

Fundraising efforts in the past have brought the collection total to over \$400,000.

Combined with the half million pledged by both the Town of Fort Erie and the District School Board of Niagara, the group is reaching the halfway-point on their \$3 million goal.

Both the town and the school board committed those sums after an agreement between the two groups and a proposed fundraising committee, called Embrace Great-

ness and chaired by Fred Louws, was struck.

According to Louws, the \$400,000 total is representative of committed dollars the group has received.

Though Passero admits the patio party won't bring the cumulative total to the \$2 million mark, he believes it's a stepping stone towards making that goal even more achievable.

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SPCA, volunteer firefighters rescue dog

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

Volunteer firefighters and SPCA staff worked together for the second time in as many weeks after a small dog lodged himself in a baby gate in a Crescent Park home last Wednesday.

Firefighters were called to assess the scene, but SPCA staff was needed to help extricate the dog.

Mark Dickson, a provincial offences officer at Fort Erie's SPCA, said it was an easy extraction, but one that required some care.

"We didn't want to cause damage to the gate, if possible, and we didn't want to traumatize the dog with the noise of saws."

By the time SPCA staff arrived, the dog's front shoulders were swollen from trying to squeeze out of the gate.

Dickson was able to use a truck jack to separate the gate bars far enough to remove the dog without damaging the gate.

The dog did not require medical attention.

The SPCA is helping the help of the volunteer firefighters on the scene.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

SPCA staff and volunteer firefighters worked together to free a stuck dog in a Crescent Park home last Wednesday.

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APR 16



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Fort Erie Duplicate Bridge Club Results

Fort Erie Duplicate Bridge result for April 4.

North-South

1. Sandra and John, 57.1 per cent.

2. Joan and Bud, 56.2 per cent.
3. Jean and Shirley, 50.5 per cent.
4. Diane and Ellen, 47.1 per cent.
5. Kitty and Norcen, 43.8 per cent.
6. Fay and Ed, 41.9 per cent.

East-West

1. Dana and Andrea, 62.8 per cent.
2. Bob and Lola, 60.6 per cent.
3. Eleanor and Tess, 54.4 per cent.
4. Janet and Peter, 52.2 per cent.

5. Janet and Andrea, 45.6 per cent.
6. Carolyn and Connie, 45.0 per cent.
7. Peggy and Ernie, 29.4 per cent.

The Fort Erie Duplicate Bridge Club has been meeting weekly at the Douglas Heights Senior Centre.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Pictured in this photo are members of the Greater Fort Erie Minor Hockey Association Major Pee wee team. From left, (first row) are goalies Dean Smith and Richie Young, (second row) Alex Pikel, Tanner Unyi, Dylan DeVinney, Tyson Richer, Owen Kelley, Blake Train, (third row) Zane Gilmour, Mason Arbic, Kevin Haley, Jaxon Boake, Jaxon Burd, Jake Sandel, Matthew Miller, (back row) assistant coaches Brett Boake and Jack McCallum, trainer Brian Gilmour and head coach Matt Boles. Absent is Damien Stehling and Asher Willett.

Pee wees defeat Granbrook in Game 3 of playoffs to win championship

MATT BOLES

Special to the Fort Erie Times

If you have not been out to a Fort Erie Minor Hockey game I would highly recommend it.

The Fort Erie Minor Hockey Association has done a great job promoting, facilitating and training our youth. Most of the hockey teams played in post season games, including the Major Pee wee squad. Most games are action packed.

Heritage Arts Sports Gallery (located in the Leisureplex) had a great impact on the players. The volunteers displayed the pee wee trophies and their winning photographs as Future Hall

of Famers. This was highly motivational, inspirational and instilled confidence in the team through the year. Next year another team will be selected for this purpose.

The Fort Erie Major Pee wee team had a very successful year with a regular season of 27 games played with 18 wins, five losses and four ties. The team also won two tournaments including the Fort Erie Andy Passero Memorial Major Pee wee Tournament. The team further enhanced the season by winning the Regional play-downs.

Post season started with loss against the Lincoln Blade 6-4 but the Junior

Meteors were determined to win.

The next game was against Granbrook where Fort Erie won 6-1, then winning 4-2 over their Welland rivals. They earned a shut-out against Niagara on the Lake 3-0. This put the Junior Meteors in first place where they faced Granbrook in a race to the first 4 points.

The championship finals turned out to be a gruelling dual between two equally qualified teams. The scores of the first two games ended in 2-2 ties. Fort Erie had the home ice advantage and this would prove to be favourable in game three.

Fort Erie was missing two skaters for most of the

play-downs. The hard working Asher Willett and the dynamic Damien Stehling missed the last two games.

In game three the team leaders Mason Arbic, Kevin Haley, Blake Train and Zane Gilmour stepped up and motivated the team. The boys were on fire and ready to go. They came out and crushed Granbrook 5-0.

Zane Gilmour had over 50 goals this season followed closely by Owen Kelley.

Matthew Miller one of the four under-aged players on the team was the most improved. He won Most Valuable Player in a Niagara-on-the-Lake tournament and put up dozens of points.

The other young playing were the relentless and tireless Tanner Unyi, Asher Willett and the high scoring Damien Stehling. Brett Boake and Dylan DeVinney proved to be shutdown defenseman. Jaxon Burd and Jake Sandel were tough, strong and reliable wingers. They were "go to" guys when we needed points and came through with goals when they were desperately needed. Alex Pikel has great and nice toe drag and also was a high scorer.

The team's success is in part due to the dedication of Jack McCallum who was an assistant coach. His transfer of hockey knowledge, experience and expertise

to the defense was appreciated. Brett Boake, also an assistant coach, was hugely instrumental in team development and strategies. The goalie coach Rich Young did an amazing job with Dean Smith and Richie Young.

The quiet and thoughtful trainer Brian Gilmour was leaned upon many times for advice. Julie Haley, the team manager, did a great job keeping the team and parents united and positive. Also I would like to thank the parents for their positive support.

Matt Boles is the head coach of the Greater Fort Erie Minor Hockey Association's Major Pee wee team.



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Cannons hope to defend OBA championship title

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

As far as a baseball season goes, it would seem that the ultimate dream for a team is to win a championship.

It's not often that any team has a chance to win two of them.

The Fort Erie Cannons managed to achieve that feat in 2015 when they emerged victorious both in their home Niagara District Baseball Association (NDBA) league as well as the 'B' Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) title in Wyoming, Ont.

Like in any championship season, the Cannons weren't always front-runners either in league standings or a game-by-game basis.

The club opened the season with a quartet of losses. The Cannons would win four straight games before taking another win and two losses in June.

This left the club with a 5-6 record and floating near the middle of the standings. They were far from out of winning the regular season, but the margin of error for the club was becoming increasingly thin.

Something clicked for the Cannons on July 8 at their annual charity game.

Celebrating the Alvia's Rainbow charity, the Cannons took to the field in bright yellow jerseys against

the visiting Welland Chiefs.

It was one of their best games of the year. Cannons' starter Cam Hall took the bump and stifled the Chiefs in a game that was over in about an hour and a half.

They'd win 8-1 that night and they never looked back once until the end of the season.

Between that charity game and the end of their regular season, the Cannons would only lose once in 7 decisions to propel themselves to second place in the league standings and to set themselves up for a more favourable playoff matchup.

The team carried this late-season momentum into the playoffs as they swept through the competition with very relative ease on their way to their first NDBA championship in several years.

The team's surge culminated in an evening game on September 24 as they took on the Merriton Alliance in game two of a best-of-three set that finished on a walk-off championship-winning hit from Cannons backup catcher Chris Patterson.

It's a play the club has affectionately dubbed "The Hit" on their twitter account.

Outside of their barren start, the club's year was filled with highlights that would have been seen within themselves had the team not had such success in both of

their championships.

On June 25, with the Welland Pirates in town, pitchers Cam Hall and Brian MacSweeney combined to toss a no-hitter against the Pirates.

Further, that no-hitter brought the club to an even record for the first time on the season.

The no-hitter was the club's first since Zac Porter had chucked one in Merriton three years ago.

Hall himself was a walking highlight reel for the team as he was arguably the most dominant pitcher in the league throughout the course of the season.

Hall frequently reached double-digit strikeout numbers and often held opposing teams to just a handful of hits and even fewer runs.

The entire rotation collaborated on having one of the most dominant pitching seasons the Cannons have had in years.

The club was amongst the league leaders in runs allowed, thanks to Hall, Porter, Ryan Soltesz, Matt Pine and more.

On the offensive side, the club was paced throughout the year by slugger Nick Weglarz.

Weglarz, a Stevensville product, spent parts of the last several years in the affiliated leagues of several Major League Baseball teams,

including the Cleveland Indians and the Tampa Bay Rays. Time and again, Weglarz showed great plate discipline and massive raw power as he hit moonshot after moonshot into the parking lot past the right field foul pole at Oakes Park in Fort Erie.

Back in July, Cannons manager Justin Hall described Weglarz succinctly.

"He's a beast. He's unbelievable," Hall said.

A large part of the team's early season turnaround was Justin Hall.

Hall says he and the club knew they were better than the record showed and they just had to wait patiently for the results to match the talent level of the club.

Hall's steady guidance at the helm took a back seat to the dominant performances later in the year, but he was nonetheless an important piece of the team's success.

Starwalks like Pat Giampolo, Matt Pine and Kris Hodges were also instrumental in 2015 as all three provided leadership and ability that helped complement players like Weglarz in the lineup.

Newer players like Gary Moraes and Georgian Denahawer were also key as both hit the hall well and played elite defence at third and first base, respectively.



FILE PHOTO/FORT ERIE TIMES

Cannons pitcher Cam Hall led the team to an easy victory over the visiting Welland Chiefs in their first playoff game of the 2015 postseason in this file photo.

Herein lies the success of the 2015 Fort Erie Cannons. From top to bottom, the players in the starting lineup could get on base, move runners over and hit the ball out of the yard.

When a lineup has hitters that challenge the opposing pitcher with each and every at bat, and at each spot in the lineup, it's unlikely the opposing team will have taken with a victory.

For the Cannons, the depth of their 2015 starting lineup was astonishing at times.

The importance of the lineup showed in several late-season victories where the team was repeatedly scoring in excess of 10 runs en route to their 8-1 finish.

Fortunately for the Cannons, much of their 2015 cast of characters is returning in hopes of defending their NDBA title in 2016.

Their season is expected to start the first weekend of May.

To be successful this year, the club will quite simply have to continue to play off of the success of their core players. Another fortunate note for the team is that much of their depth from 2015 is returning, meaning that the club will continue to supplement the lineup with strong players at each position.

With how well the team gelled in 2015, it is also hard to imagine they'd repeat their slow start in 2016.

Cannons General Manager Claton Hall says the team is already digging in in hopes of a successful 2016.

Hall says the team has already started weekly practices at the Bullitt Pro Baseball Academy facilities in Welland.

"I think I'm pretty confident we've got a good shot of winning again," Hall says about their OBA chances.

"We've got to go up into 'X' division but I don't see us having a problem with that."

Hall and friend Frank Lortio founded the Senior Fort Erie Cannons back in 2004 to fill a lack of senior teams in the area.

2015 was the first time the Senior Cannons won the OBA tournament.

"I don't see any reason why we couldn't win again," Hall says.

"I'm pretty confident we'll be right at the top again."

Hall would be the first to tell you that the team had to come into their own and find out what they were before they could truly dig in and win ballgames.

After a long, grueling 2015 campaign, the club should head into 2016 knowing full well what they're capable of as a club.

Austin Gooder is a Niagara College Journalism-Print student. You can e-mail him at austingoodermedia@gmail.com.

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Meteors coach reflects on end of season

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times



According to Meteors head coach Rob Hubbert, Fort Erie's junior B team hit some "major milestone" this season.

"It was a good year," Hubbert said about the team that started the season slow but ended up winning 10 games in a row in the final days leading up to playoffs.

The Meteors finished the regular season of the Greater Ontario Junior League Golden Horseshoe Conference with a record of 25 wins, 21 losses and one tie for a total of 54 points, taking fifth place behind the Niagara Falls Canucks.

The Canucks edged the Meteors 7-5 to take the best-of-seven playoff series 4-1.

"In the last game, they had four short-handed goals scored against them. I thought (the Meteors) deserved better fate in the series. In the end, it all came down to specialty teams and goal tending."

Despite being knocked out of the playoffs, Hubbert said the 2015/2016 season was one of the best seasons yet for the Meteors.

"I'm proud of them and how much they have improved over last year," Hubbert said. "We won 25 games this year and that's a good season. I think we're really put (the Meteors) back on the map."

Near the end of the season, Hubbert said "the switch went on from them" and they "were on a roll."

Hubbert attributes the success of the junior B team to the growing crowd of fans that

attended games at the Fort Erie Leisureplex week after week.

"It really pumped the kids up in the dressing room. (Having the fans) was a good sign."

Anthony Passero, a veteran Meteors player who returned this year after recovering from a concussion, earned 90 points this season, "kept the team together."

"All the coaches worked really hard," Hubbert said. "In the end, the guys bought into it and they came to the rink and they worked hard."

The head coach described the end of the season as "positive."

"It's not the results we wanted, hoping to win in the first round. This year we took baby steps from a total rebuild. We had four 16-year-old kids that also started this year."

Holden Garland, earning "well over 70 points from the year before to now," was the top player in the Golden Horseshoe Conference. He won the J.P. Thomas Award as Most Improved Player.

Daniel Singer won the Brent Rubel Memorial Trophy as Rookie of the Year. Hubbert said Bryce Martin has been a standout as a defenseman for the Meteors.

"We're a young team, a young

team with growing pains. We grew real fast. Our guys deserve full credit. Those kids worked real hard."

As a coach, Hubbert said it is his responsibility to make sure the Meteors are ready to go on the ice and he feels the Meteors have improved.

"Right now, we want to swallow the season and dissect it, where did we go right, where did we go wrong. For me as coach, that's what I do, dissect and go over everything."

Tony Passero, the team's operations manager, said a rookie camp will be held in May and several skating days will be held in June and July. Training camp for the next season will begin on Aug. 17.

He said there will likely be a number of returning players next season but the team will lose veterans like Anthony Passero, Paolo Silvotti and Alex Hearn.

"Every year some kids move on and some kids go to school. Some kids just don't want to play. You always have fluctuation of players. This year, out of the 20 we have eligible to come and we're hoping to have 14 to 15 to give us a good start."

Passero said he'd like to thank all of the fans and sponsors for their support this season.

"We always want to make sure we thank the fans," Passero said.

"I also want to thank the players for playing hard this season. A lot of times you don't get that chance to say thanks for playing hard. I am appreciative of coaches in the league," he added.

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Hockey champions



The Ridgeway Ball Hockey League recently finished its winter session. The Hawks clinched the Under 9 session championship on March 21.



The Canucks defeated the Flames, winning the Under 12 Ridgeway Ball Hockey League winter championship on March 23.



The Caps defeated the Stars, winning the Under 15 Ridgeway Ball Hockey League winter championship on March 30.

Big win for Fort Erie's Jessica Minor

AUSTIN GOODER

Special to the Fort Erie Times

Balancing school work with sports is a challenge for some student athletes, but Jessica Minor has found a way to excel at both.

Minor, a Mohawk College student from Ridgeway, was honoured by the college with a rather prestigious award.

For her work on the soccer pitch and on the badminton court, Minor was named the All Round Female Athlete at the college.

Minor hoped she'd just win any award this year, so she was really happy to be recognized.

"It was amazing, I was just hoping that I'd win something, so it was great," Minor said.

She was also named Defender of the Year and Most Valuable Player for her soccer and badminton teams, respectively.

"I've put in a lot of time and a lot of effort," Minor said when asked how she pushed through the times when schoolwork or the practices threatened to overwhelm her.

"It was hard, but when you're on a sports team, you have to time manage very well."

Minor got her start in sports when she played for the Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School Blue Devils' soccer, track and badminton teams.

Though she doesn't have any plans to go professional, Minor says she hopes to continue playing through her fourth year at the school.

Minor is a third year Medical Radiation Sciences student, and she emphasized the quality of the support staff around her.

Her coaches, she said, have excelled at providing encouragement and pushing her to go the extra mile.

"They're amazing. They're always there for me when I need them," Minor said.

The coaches at Mohawk took notice of Minor's skills as all six voted unanimously to name her the All Round Female player of the year.

Minor's soccer coach, Renzo Castellani, describes Minor as a player of the utmost quality.

"Jessica is a fantastic central defender. She is a team leader



A Mohawk College representative recently presented Jessica Minor, right, Mohawk College's All Round Female Athlete on March 30.

and one of the strongest players we've ever had play defense in a number of years," Castellani said.

"It was easy for us to award her with one of the coach's awards for soccer this year."

Minor made an impression on her coaches by both being a strong soccer player but also a player who leads by example on the field.

"It's her personality and easy-goingness that makes her a great player," Castellani said.

"Jessica is easily one of the most coachable athletes we have ever had."

Austin Gooder is a Niagara College Journalism-Print student. You can e-mail him at austingoodermedia@gmail.com.

Jessica Minor

- Number: 20
- Position: Defence
- Height: 5'7"
- Hometown: Ridgeway
- High School: Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School

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Roman Catholics were never as comfortable as the Lutherans, Reformed and other groups in the state church of Prussia, set up by Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm III in 1817. Their exit proved the way out for Jews, Gypsies, Mennonites and Quakers in Europe. In Canada the Mennonites first forced everybody out and the local Union Church moved to its present site in 1834. Catholics left more gently to meet in houses until they built a church in 1849 north of Stevensville. Their exit made it easier for the Lutherans to depart in 1867, but Catholics maintain particularly good relations with their fellow Christians of the Union (now United) tradition. Their large cemeteries reach back to almost join, and there have been plans to connect burial grounds someday with St. John's-Stevensville United Church.

Sunday worship service 11:00 am; only minutes to Sudom Rd, Ft. Erie, just north of Stevensville, QEW exits 16 & 17.

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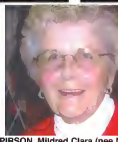
Obituaries



CHOW, Chi-Shing - Chi-Shing Chow, 80, beloved husband and father, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, on April 3, 2016 in Fort Erie, Ontario after a long struggle with Parkinson's. He is survived by his loving wife Phyllis, son Samuel, Loving brother of the late Alice Yau (the late Stephen), Lillian Yik (Yik Fong), and Catherine Chiu (the late Siu Sun) of Hong Kong, Grace Chow (Chee Woo) of San Diego, Lawrence Chow (Susan), Phoebe Chow (Stella), and Raymond Chow (Bertha) of Hong Kong. He will be missed by several uncles, his many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbours. He was born on April 11, 1935 in Shan-Tai, China. He graduated in the first graduating class from Hong Kong Baptist College in 1960. He came to Canada in March 1968, arriving in Toronto. He moved to and settled in Fort Erie with his wife and son in September 1968. Trained in the family business in Hong Kong as a jeweler, diamond setter, goldsmith, jewelry designer and gemologist, he established his own jewelry business in Fort Erie in 1973, retiring in 1989 at the age of 54, in order to spend more time with his ailing mother in Hong Kong. Chi-Shing loved to play baseball, sing hymns, eat well, travel and spend time with his family and friends. Chi-Shing was also an avid cruser after his retirement, visiting many places and ports of call. He accepted Christ as his personal Saviour at the age of 21 after listening to Billy Graham speak in Hong Kong in 1956. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Erie since September 1968, and was involved in the youth group activities and church choir. He also became involved over the years with other churches, notably the St. Catherine's Chinese Alliance Church, the Niagara Region Christian Community Church, and the Buffalo Chinese Christian Church, to name just a few. Chi-Shing had a heart for Chinese missions and financially supported the efforts and work of Far East Broadcasting Canada, His Foundation (HK) Ambassadors for Christ in Canada, Christian Mission of Canada, Foundation Christian Charitable Association, and Metro Chinese Christian Mission. Friends will be welcomed at First Baptist Church (Berrie and Central) Fort Erie from 5 pm until 7 pm on Friday April 8th. A Funeral will take place at 7 pm. Cremation will follow. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements.



KINGSTON, Thomas Arthur - Tom passed away peacefully at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Friday April 1st, 2016 at the age of 86. Loving husband of over 58 yrs to Mary. Cherished father of Ed (Ann) Kingston, David (Kingston) (deceased), Kathleen (Shawn) Myer, John (Isabel) Kingston, Jeff (Pam) Kingston and Peter (Deborah) Kingston. Tom will be fondly remembered by his 7 grandchildren Kevin (Jamey), Kimberly, Nicole, Dale, Brooke, Stephanie and Nathan. Tom served as the Fort Erie Postmaster for many years and served as the President of the local Postal Union. An active member of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus where he served as Past Grand Knight and Past District Deputy. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends on Sunday April 3rd from 2-4 & 7-9. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the St. Michael's Church Building Fund or the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.



PIRSON, Mildred Clara (nee Noyes) - Passed away at Gilpin Lodge on Saturday April 2, 2016 at the age of 84. Beloved wife of Howard (Corky) Piron for 63 years. Predeceased by brother Calvin Noyes (the late Audrey) and brother-in-law Donald Piron (the late June). Survived by brother-in-law Jerry Piron (the late Helen). A special thanks to Dr. Scher and all the staff at Gilmore Lodge for their excellent and special care. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway, entrusted with arrangements. Cremation has taken place. A private celebration of life will take place at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Arthritis Society.

ARCHIBALD, Gary - Passed away peacefully at home, Sunday March 27, 2016 at the age of 67. He leaves behind his wife and best friend Sue, and his beloved German Shepherd, Ginger. He will be missed by sister-in-law Gail Wilson and Kathy Taylor, their children and grandchildren, and his many friends and neighbours. At his request, cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations to the SPCA or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120.

SHANNON, Vincent S. - Peacefully at Bluewater Health in Sarnia with his wife by his side on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Vincent S. Shannon of Forest, formerly of Fort Erie passed away in his 78th year. Loving husband of Carolyn (Hales) for 41 years. Loving father of Jay & Pat McNaughton, Keith & Tania Shannon, Blair & Sandra Shannon, and Jill McNaughton. Cherished grandfather of E.J., Cathy, Liam, Maverick, Jacie, Cole, Carson, Abby, Renee and great grandfather of Luna. As per Vincent's wishes cremation has taken place and no funeral services will be held. Vincent worked at GM in St. Catherine's for 31 years and was a proud member of the Fort Frank's Seniors Club and White Crane Society in Forest. Share a memory or condolence at www.gilpinfuneralchapel.com



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MILLER, Dora - The family of the late Dora Miller would like to invite her friends and acquaintances to her inurnment on Thursday, April 14, 2016, 11:00 a.m., at the Royal Canadian Legion Colbarium, within Greenwood Cemetery, 1900 Thompson Rd., Fort Erie, Ontario. A graveside service will be held, followed by a luncheon and celebration of life, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #71, 150 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie. Donations can be made to the MAPLE PARK LODGE PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT, 6 Hagey Ave., Fort Erie, L2A 1W3, (905) 894-0120. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, (905) 894-0120.

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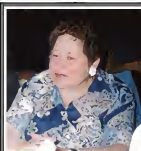
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